

urban derelict" habitat. It had once been a riverside oil-intake terminal for the Chelsea Power Station, but since its disuse several years ago had been bulldozed and abandoned. It was now taken over with a rough growth of thin grasses, flowering herbs, some brambles and many bare areas.

The Bexley site was also a sparsely-vegetated derelict plot, and very similar in character. Once a farmyard, it had been roughly levelled or bulldozed then abandoned for several years. The West Acton railway embankment was a mixture of tall grass and bramble scrub, but with some bare areas where recent digging had taken place.

Other noteworthy species, found at Chelsea, were typical of such a sparsely vegetated London site and included the local shieldbugs *Aelia acuminata* (L.) and *Podops inuncta* (Fabr.); the mainly coastal rhopalid bug *Chorosoma schillingi* (Schum.); the recently established lygaeid *Nysius senecionis* (Schilling); the clouded yellow butterfly *Colias croceus* (Geoff.); the nationally scarce sphecid *Gorytes bicinctus* (Rossius) and its cuckoo parasite *Nysson trimaculatus* (Rossius); the nationally scarce eumenid wasp *Microdynerus exilis* (H.- S.); the nationally scarce Adonis ladybird *Adonia variegata* (Goeze); the *Red Data Book* (RDBK – insufficiently known to categorise) beetle *Olibrus flavicornis* (Sturm); and the uncommon pill woodlouse *Armadillidium nasatum* Budde-Lund. All are warmth-loving species, characteristic of the sparsely vegetated, dry, well-drained plots which are London's threatened ruderal habitats.

References

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***Bruchidius varius* (Ol.) (Col.: Bruchidae) in south-east London**

This recent addition to our list was discovered in East Sussex in 1994 by P.J. Hodge (*Coleopterist* **5**(3): 65-8). The description and admirable figures there given show it to be very distinctive among our members of the family. In conversation with Mr Hodge I learnt that the species appeared to be spreading outward from Sussex, so – given that the chief foodplant, red clover, often grows freely on Woolwich Common here – it was not wholly unexpected when among my captures there on 10.vi.2000 a single female *B. varius* was found. Now that the species has reached this locality, it will doubtless be encountered again in due course.– A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montclam Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.